A-6127

Variance Request

Widen and reconstruct the steps leading to the front porch and add one tread. The proposed reconstructed steps would extend an additional one foot, two inches (1'-2") beyond the existing steps for a maximum encroachment of two (2) feet forward of the twenty-five (25) foot front building restriction line.

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Bahn 118 Hesketh Street

118 Hesketh Street



Figure 1: View of 118 Hesketh Street.



Figure 2: View of the front steps. The variance request is to widen (by 16") and reconstruct the steps, adding another tread, for a total of four (4) risers.

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE BOARD OF MANAGERS MAY 14, 2012 MEETING

STAFF REPORT

TO:

BOARD OF MANAGERS

FROM:

ELLEN SANDS, PERMITTING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT COORDINATOR

DATE:

5/10/2012

SUBJECT:

HEARING OF APPEAL CASE NO. A-6127 VARIANCE REQUEST

DR. & MRS. CHARLES BAHN, 118 HESKETH STREET

WIDEN AND RECONSTRUCT THE STEPS LEADING TO THE FRONT PORCH AND ADD ONE TREAD. THE PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTED STEPS WOULD EXTEND AN ADDITIONAL ONE FOOT, TWO INCHES (1'-2") BEYOND THE EXISTING STEPS FOR A MAXIMUM ENCROACHMENT

OF TWO (2) FEET FORWARD OF THE TWENTY-FIVE (25) FOOT FRONT BUILDING

RESTRICTION LINE.

NOTICE REQUIREMENTS: Abutting Owners; Public Notice

APPLICABLE CHEVY CHASE BUILDING REGULATION:

The Chevy Chase Village Code § 8-17 (c) states:

No structure or play equipment of any description shall be erected within twenty-five (25) feet of the front line of any lot.

FINDINGS REQUIRED:

- 1. The proposed variance is required because special conditions exist whereby the enforcement of the requirements of the Village Building Code would result in an unwarranted hardship and injustice to the owner.
- 2. The proposed variance will most nearly accomplish the intent and purpose of the requirements of the Village Building Code; and
- 3. Except for variances from the requirements of Sections 8-22, 8-26 or Article IV of the Village Regulations [not applicable to this appeal], the structure authorized by the proposed variance would not violate any covenant applicable to the property.

APPLICABLE COVENANTS:

A covenant applicable to the Subject Property imposed by the Chevy Chase Land Company provides "That no structure of any description shall be erected within twenty-five (25) feet of the front line of said premises and that no stable, carriage house, shed or out-building shall be erected except on the rear of said premises."

FACTUAL AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The proposed stoop reconstruction was added to an ongoing renovation project at the Subject Property that includes a kitchen addition, the conversion of a porch into a sun room and the reroofing of the detached garage (previously granted variance request A-6112).

The existing steps encroach ten (10) inches forward of the front twenty-five (25) foot building restriction and covenant front line setback.

The proposed steps would encroach an additional one foot, two inches (1'-2") beyond the existing steps, for a total encroachment of two (2) feet.



The Applicants state that the current risers are of uneven heights and too tall per current Montgomery County building regulations.

The Applicants state that the top step has separated from the front porch creating a hazardous condition.

They propose to reconstruct the steps so that the riser heights will be consistent and propose to add one more step so that each riser can be reduced in height to meet County code requirements.

In previous cases the Board has determined that if uncovered steps and stoops were constructed at the time that the covenants applicable to the property were placed, or shortly thereafter, then it is presumed that the covenant authors did not intend those protrusions to be classified as "structures" for the purposes of the covenants.

In previous cases the Board has found that the covenant authors did not intend certain uncovered steps and stoops to be deemed "structures" for the purposes of the front covenant setback, where such uncovered steps and stoops are installed as a matter of necessity to address the change in elevation from the ground to the entrance of a house and which steps and stoops are the minimum necessary to provide reasonable access.

The renovation of the steps is part of a larger hardscape project that includes replacing the front walkway, the steps to the sidewalk and constructing a decorative landscape retaining wall located three feet from the public sidewalk. As currently proposed this work will not require additional Board approvals.

There are no tree protection issues regarding the project. A tree protection plan has been installed as required by the ongoing addition at the property and would remain in place throughout the proposed stoop project.

To date there have been no letters received from abutting or confronting neighbors regarding the project.

Applicable Fees: Variance Application Fee: \$150.00; Building Permit: \$30.00; TOTAL: \$180.00

RELEVANT PRECEDENTS:

In May 2005 Mr. & Mrs. Justin Bausch of 12 East Lenox Street were granted a variance to extend the uncovered steps leading to the front porch. The applicants cited the same safety concerns such as steep risers which did not meet County Code requirements as in this case. A difference in the Bausch case was that the covenants were worded to prohibit "any stable, carriage houses or shed" forward of the 25-foot covenant setback, rather than the more standard language prohibiting "structure[s] of any description" forward of that setback. In December of 2010, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Maruszewski of 127 Grafton Street were granted a variance to enlarge a non-conforming stoop, which violated applicable covenants, and which would encroach five feet, six inches (5'-6") forward of the 25-foot covenant setback, an additional two feet, eleven inches (2'-11") farther than the existing stoop. In December 2010, Mr. Gregory L. Dixon and Ms. Susan F. Dixon, Co-Trustees of the Gregory L. Dixon Revocable Trust and the Susan F. Dixon Revocable Trust, of 5500 Montgomery Street, were granted a variance to expand their front stoop that would extend three (3) feet forward of the twenty-five (25) foot front building restriction line. In January of 2011, Case A-5854, Joanne Kyros and Thomas Schaufelberger of 135 Grafton Street were granted a variance to enlarge an existing non-conforming stoop with

steps (all of which violated applicable covenants) and construct three (3) treads that would encroach five (5) feet forward of the 25-foot covenant setback, an additional two (2) inches farther than the existing treads. In February of 2012, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Marino, of 11 Primrose Street, were granted a variance to relocate and construct non-conforming front steps, leading to a porch. Both the porch and the existing steps violated an applicable 25-foot front setback covenant. The proposed steps would encroach twelve feet, eight inches (12'-8") in front of the 25-foot front setback line, an additional ten (10) inches beyond the existing steps. In April of 2012 Mr. & Mrs. D. Blake Bath were granted a variance to reconstruct the front steps and add an additional step leading from the front walkway to the front porch. The existing steps violated an applicable 25-foot front setback covenant.

Draft Motion

I move to direct staff to draft a decision **APPROVING/DENYING** the variance request in case A-6127, based on the findings that ...

CHEVY CHASE VILLAGE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please take notice that the Chevy Chase Village Board of Managers will hold a public hearing on the 14th day of May, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. The hearing will be held at the Chevy Chase Village Hall at 5906 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

APPEAL NUMBER A-6127 Dr. & Mrs. Charles Bahn 118 Hesketh Street Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

The applicants seek a variance from the Board of Managers pursuant to Section 8-11 of the Chevy Chase Village Building Code to widen and reconstruct the steps leading to the front porch and add one tread. The proposed reconstructed steps would extend an additional one foot, two inches (1'-2") beyond the existing steps for a maximum encroachment of two (2) feet forward of the twenty-five (25) foot front building restriction line.

The Chevy Chase Village Code § 8-17 (c) states:

No structure or play equipment of any description shall be erected within twenty-five (25) feet of the front line of any lot.

Additional information regarding this appeal may be obtained at the Chevy Chase Village Office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, may be viewed on the Village website at www.chevychasevillagemd.gov or you may contact the office for this information to be mailed to you.

This notice was mailed to abutting and confronting property owners on the 3rd day of May, 2012.

Chevy Chase Village Office 5906 Connecticut Avenue Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 301-654-7300

MAILING LIST FOR APPEAL A-6127

DR. & MRS. CHARLES BAHN 118 HESKETH STREET CHEVY CHASE, MD 20815

Adjoining and confronting property owners	
Mr. Seymour Auerbach	Mr. & Mrs. J.M. Robin Hutchinson
Or Current Resident	Or Current Resident
115 Hesketh Street	113 Hesketh Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815	Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Gulland	Dr. & Mrs. Gary Adams
Or Current Resident	Or Current Resident
120 Hesketh Street	116 Hesketh Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815	Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Offen	Mr. John R. Klein, II
Or Current Resident	Or Current Resident
115 Grafton Street	117 Grafton Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815	Chevy Chase, MD 20185
Ms. Sarah Cooper	Ms. Susan Shearer &
Or Current Resident	Mr. Douglas Young
119 Grafton Street	Or Current Resident
Chevy Chase, MD 20815	111 Hesketh Street
	Chevy Chase, MD 20815

I hereby certify that a public notice was mailed to the aforementioned property owners on the 3rd day of May, 2012.

Ellen Sands

Permitting and Code Enforcement Coordinator

Chevy Chase Village

5906 Connecticut Avenue

Chevy Chase, MD 20815



May 3, 2012

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Bahn 118 Hesketh Street Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Bahn:

Please note that your request to widen and reconstruct the front stoop, adding one tread, at your property is scheduled before the Board of Managers on Monday, May 14, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

Either you or another representative must be in attendance to present your case. At that time, additional documents may be introduced and testimony can be provided in support of the request.

For your convenience, enclosed please find copies of the Public Hearing Notice and mailing list. Please contact the Village office in advance if you are unable to attend.

Sincerely,

Ellen Sands

Permitting and Code Enforcement

Chevy Chase Village

Enclosures

Assistant Secretary

Chevy Chase Village

Building Permit Application

Property Address: //8 HESKETH ST
Resident Name: CHARLES & HELEN BAHN
Daytime telephone: 301 657-39 23 Cell phone: 301 502-4417 (NELEN)
After-hours telephone: 301 951-4136
E-mail: charles bahn @ hotmail . com or helen bahn @ hotmail.com
Project Description: Replace the existing front walkway, the stoop to the house, the steps to the sidewalk, construct a decorative landsorphetaining wall ~3 feet from the sidewalk (entirely on the applicant Property), construct a connector walkway from the front walkway (stepping stones) to the driveway, and install ceranic tile on front entry. Check here if the construction will require the demolition of over fifty (50) percent of any existing structure.
Primary Contact for Project:
Resident Architect Project Manager Contractor*
*MHIC/MD Contractor's License No. (required):
Information for Primary Contact for Project (if different from property owner): Work to be done by; Name: Capitol Hardscapes - Chris Scango Work telephone: 240 839-7011 Cell phone: 240 375-2637 *
E-mail: c scango @ capitolhardscapes. com
With All and a second s
If no, provide contact information for the party responsible for the construction site (if different from above):
Name:
Address:
Work telephone: After-hours telephone:
Cell phone:
E-mail:
Parking Compliance:
Is adequate on-site parking available for the construction crews?
If no, please attach a parking plan which minimizes inconvenience to neighboring residents, and indicate if the property is in a permit parking area.
Will road closings be required due to deliveries, equipment or other reasons? Yes No

Permit No: <u>A-6127</u>

Building Permit Filing Requirements: Application will not be reviewed until the application is complete

Copy of stamped drawings approved by Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), if required. Every page of drawings must be clearly stamped.
This application form, signed by resident.
Boundary Survey
Site Plan (see: Village Site Plan Checklist to ensure completeness)
Building plans and specifications
Tree Preservation Plan requested of Village arborist (see: Village Tree Inspection Request form). All required tree protections must be fully installed before any work begins.
Filing Fee (due at time of application). Fees schedule is listed in Chapter 6 of the Village Code.
Damage deposit or performance bond (due when Building Permit is issued). Amount of required deposit or bond will be set by Village Manager.
Once this permit application is complete, the Village Manager will review the application and accompanying documents and, under most circumstances, act on the application within 5 to 10 working days. If the Montgomery County permit is suspended, revoked or lapsed, the Village permit is automatically suspended, revoked or lapsed.
No signs advertising the architect, contractor, or any other service provider may be posted on the work site.
I hereby certify that I have the authority to make the foregoing application, that the application is correct, that I have read and understood all requirements and that the construction will conform to the regulations of the Montgomery County Zoning Code, the Village Code including Urban Forest code, and any covenants and easements on the subject property.
Applicant's Signature: Men M Bah Date: 4/21/12 // // //
To be completed by Village staff:
Is this property within the historic district? Yes No Staff Initials: Date application filed with Village: Date permit issued: Expiration date:

For Use By Village Manager	Application approved w	ith the following conditions:
or se By Village Marrer	Application denied for	or the following reasons:
100 0 0 2012	hand they	The reconstructed
APR 2 3 2012	runt Stoop is Jan	vard of the 25'
Chevy Chase Village Manager	BRL (Currente	(a devoi opmontal
	non conformity).
Filing Fees (due when application submitted)	Checks Payable to:	Chevy Chase Village 5906 Connecticut Ave.
Permit Application Fee: \$ 50.00 (see Permit Fee Worksheet)		Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Tree Preservation Plan Fee: \$\sum_\$250.00 Not required for this project.	veriously assessed	& instilled
TOTAL Fees: \$50 - 00	Date: 4/03/12 Staff Signature: 7/1/	Sans
Damage Deposit/Performance Bo (due when permit is issued)	ond Checks Payable to:	Chevy Chase Village 5906 Connecticut Ave.
□ \$	Date:	Chevy Chase, MD 20815
☐ Waived by Village Manager	Staff signature:	
Cost of damage to R-O-W: (calculated at close-out) Amount of refund:	Date: Staff signature:	
For Village Staff use: Field file for inspections by Code Enfo		

Chevy Chase Village **Application for a Variance**

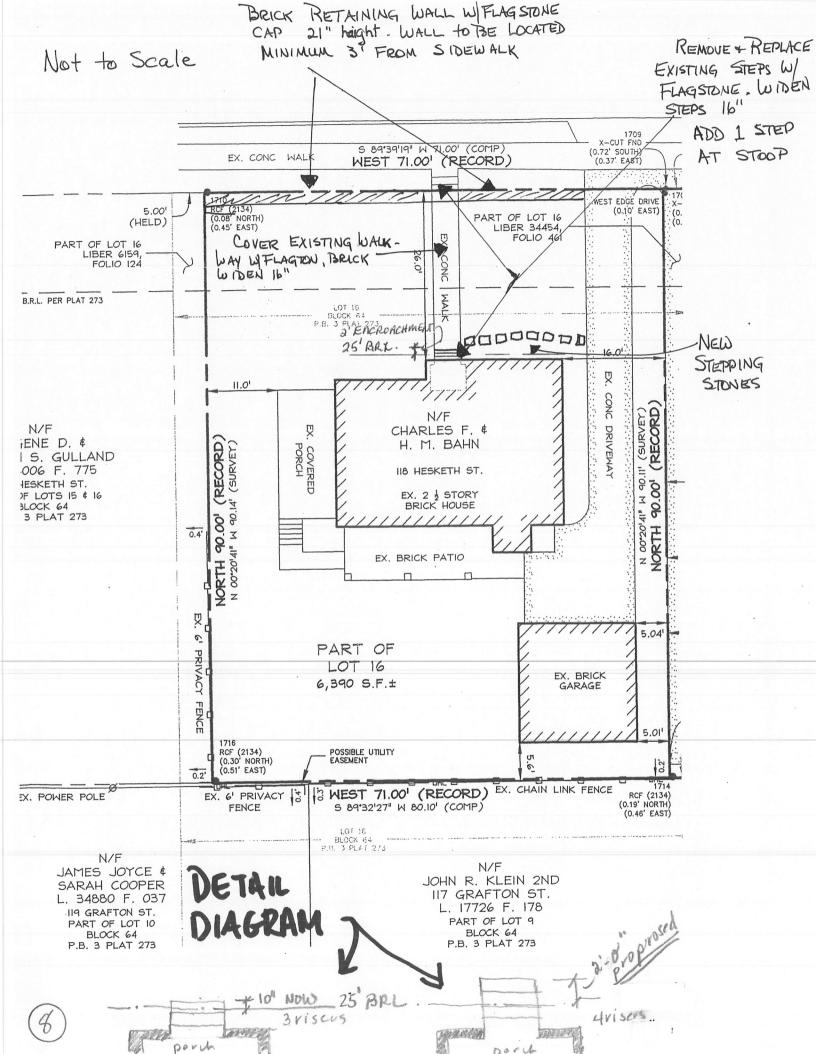
A variance is permission granted to a landowner to depart from the specific requirements of the Village zoning ordinance and allows a landowner to use land differently than specified in the ordinance. The variance is a written authorization from the Board of Managers permitting construction in a manner not otherwise allowed by the Village Code.

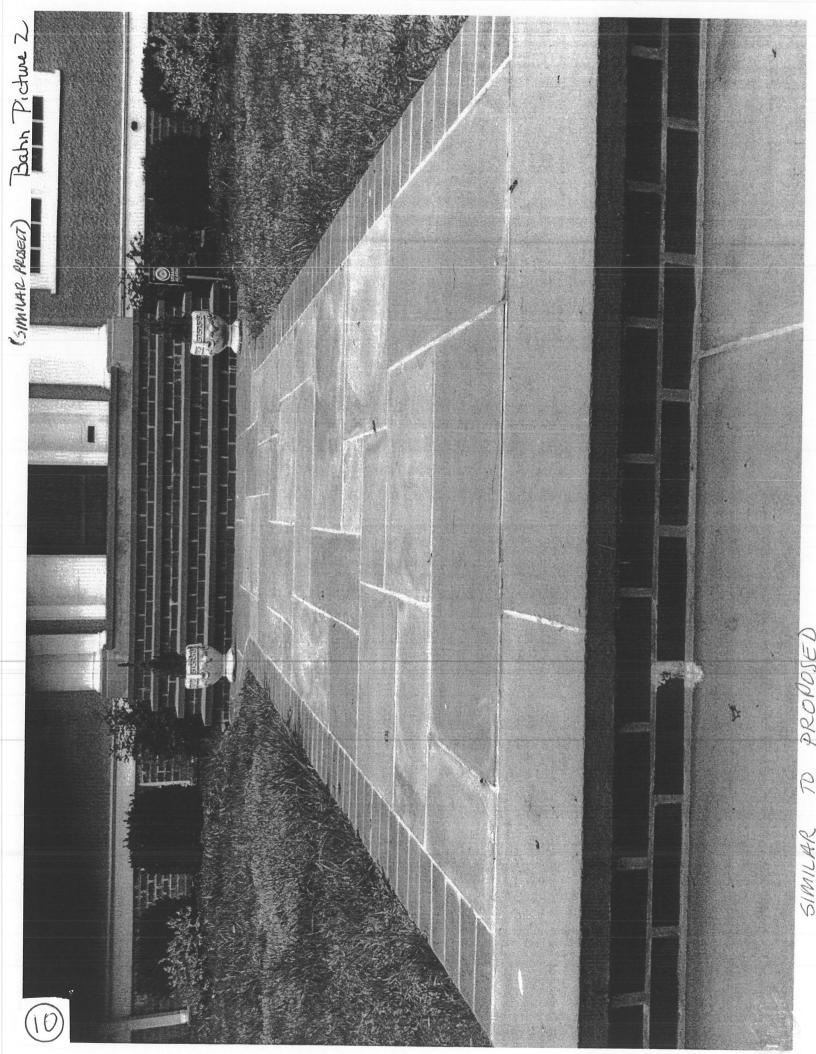
Board of Francisco's permitting construction in a manner not other wise attowed by the vittage Code.
Subject Property: 118 HESKETH ST
Describe the Proposed Project: RECONSTRUCTION OF FRONT STEPS TO THE HOUSE (STOOP) THE PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION WILL IMPROVE THE SQUETY AND AESTHETICS OF THE PROPERTY.
Applicant Name(s) (List all property owners): CHARLES & HELEN BAHN
Daytime telephone: 301 657-3022 Cell: 301 502-4417 HereN
E-mail: charlesbahn @ hotmail.com he lenbahn @ hotmail.com
Address (if different from property address):
For Village staff use: Date this form received: 4/23/12 Variance No: A-0127
Filing Dogwiyaments
Filing Requirements:
Completed Chevy Chase Village Application for a Variance (this form)
Completed Chevy Chase Village Building Permit Application
A boundary survey or plat diagram with a margin of error of one tenth of a foot or less showing all existing
structures, projections and impervious surfaces.
Surveys, plats, engineering reports, construction plans/specifications or other accurate drawings showing
boundaries, dimensions, and area of the property, as well as the location and dimensions of all structures/fences/walls/etc., existing and proposed to be erected, and the distances of uch
structures/fences/walls/etc., from the nearest property lines. These drawings shall incorporate and display
reference dimensions from the boundary survey or plat diagram required above.
Copy of Covenants applicable to the property except for variances from Sections 8-22, 8-26 or Article IV
of Chapter 8 of the Chevy Chase Village Code. If there are no covenants, provide a letter from an attorney or the title insurance carrier stating that there are no covenants.
Variance fee (See fee schedule listed in Chapter 6 of the Village Code).
Affidavit I hereby certify that I have the authority to submit the foregoing application, that all owners of the property have
signed below, that I have read and understand all requirements and that I or an authorized representative will appear
at the scheduled public hearing in this matter. I hereby authorize the Village Manager, or the Manager's designee,
and/or the Board of Managers to enter onto the subject property for the purposes of assessing the site in relation to this variance request. I hereby declare and affirm, under penalty of perjury, that all matters and facts set forth in the
foregoing application are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.
Applicant's Signature: Date: 4/21//2
Applicant's Signature: Date: 4/4/

6

Describe the basis for the variance request (attach additional pages as needed).

Describe the special conditions of the pro-	operty (e.g., odd shape, sma	ll size, sloping topography, abuts	
state highway, etc.) and how the property	y compares to other properti	es in the Village:	
The current steps to the front	s) the house (stoop) a	se in dissepant, Cracked and	in
nood & replacement (Picture 1) The	steps of the existing st	rop are of unever heights and a	1e too
tall per the current Montgomer	y Co Blog sogulation	s. The existing stoop encre	oache
(10") 10 inches into the required	, 25-foot front setba	CK from Heske YR St. To reconst	Suct
the stoop to neet Unigomery Co Cod	(lequal riser heights) 18	step must be added which will	I ÀCRA
The eneroachment an additional			10(21)
feet.		D	
Describe how enforcement of the building injustice because of the special condition	ig regulations would result in	n an unwarranted hardship and	
injustice because of the special condition	i(s) described above (i.e., de	scribe (1) the unwarranted hardship	. 1
and injustice that you claim exists and (ii injustice):	i) now the special conditions	s cause that unwarranted hardship at	nd
	When the unsorb auist	ing stoop (cracked + crumbling	AMIN A
uneven 4-too Hall rises height	with a safe + attract	11/2 / 1/2 /	. ,
1 11 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1/2 1.1		SISTER
101111111		1 / /	20
will be added so that each	R riser can be red	eicod in height to mest co	<u>riny</u>
code regeniements			
The proposed reconstruction with an appearance of the house is an appearance of the house in connection with Managers may reverse or affirm, wholly determination as it deems appropriate. Open VISTAN + ade greate file	The Improve the Safety (Picture 2 -not to sca Le Appearance of the Pi th a variance request, the C or partly, or may modify the	She property + enhance \\ Le ours is much narrower \\ Deposed representation \\ They Chase Village Board of	Le
07-11/2/02	Jugar vice a	ce 1181 De mpacea	
Variance Filing Fee Per Village Code Sec. 6-2(a)(24):	Checks Payable To:	Chevy Chase Village 5906 Connecticut Ave. Chevy Chase, MD 20815	
\$300.00 for new construction. \$150.00 for replacing existing non-	Date Paid: 4-22-12		
conformities.	D.	· h. Rigila	
\$300.00 for fences, walls, play	Staff Signature:	in Mages	
equipment, trees, hedges, shrubbery in the			
public right-of-way. 4493 Other: \$ 30 PoD \$4494			
on 30 See Pernit Build			
Fee Paid: "150 Steps Vanance #4495			





er

taining.

To have and to hold the above described percel of land unto the only proper use, and benefit forever of the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns in fee simple.

And the party of the first part covenants that he will warrant specially the land hereby conveyed, and that he will execute such further assurances thereof as may be requisite.

Witness my hand and seel.

Attesti

314 Alexander M. Proctor

J. Addison Hicks

(Internal Mevenue \$0.50)

United States of America,

District of Columbia, ss:-

I hereby certify that on this 19th day of Pecember 1925, before the subscriber a Notary Public in and for the District of Columbia, personally appeared Alexander M.

Proctor, party to the foregoing and ammexed deed and acknowledged the same to be his act.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto affixed my hand and official seal this.

J. Addison Hicks

Notary Public

District of

Columbia

J. Addison Hicks
Notary Public D.C.

EXAMINED.

AT the request of George F. Mikkelson the following deed was recorded December 23rd A.D. 1925 at 11:50 o'clock A.M. to wit:-

Midelte 9 4

The Price Post This deed made this tenth day of December in the year one thousand nine

138-16757 hundred and twenty five by and between The Chevy Chase Land Company of Montgomery County, MaryW Wall DC land (a corporation duly organized under and by virtue of the laws of the state of Maryland)

241-26 party of the first part and George F. Mikkelson of the state of Maryland, party of the second

part:

Witnesseth that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the sum of twenty two thousand one hundred and sixty nine and 25/100 dollars to it paid by the said party of the second part, and of the covenants and agreements of the said party of the second part as hereinafter set forth does hereby grant and convey unto the said party of the second part in fee simple, the following described land and premises with the improvements, easements and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situate in the county of Montgomery State of Maryland, namely:

Lots numbered eight (8) nine (9) ten (10) and eleven (11) in block numbered

sixty two (62) and lots numbered sixteen (16) and seventeen (17) and the east thirty five (35) feet front on Hesketh Street by the full depth thereof of lot numbered fifteen (15) in block numbered sixty four (64) in the subdivision made by The Chevy Chase Land Company of Montgomery County, Maryland known as "Chevy Chase Section two", as per plat of said subdivision recorded in plat book No.3 page 273 of the land records of Montgomery County, Maryland.

To have and to hold the said land and premises with the improvements essements and appurtenances, unto and to the use of the said party of the second part, his heire and assigns in fee simple.

In consideration of the execution of this deed the said porty of the second part for himself and for his heirs and assigns hereby covenants and agrees with the party of the first part its successors and assigns (such covenants and agreements to run with the land) as follows, viz:

1. That all houses upon the premises hereby conveyed shall be built and used for residence purposes exclusively except stables carriage houses sheds or other outbuildings for use in connection with such residences and that no trade business manufacture or sale or nuisance of any kind shall be carried on or permitted upon said premises.

2. That no structure of any description shall be erected within twenty

five (25) feet of the front line of said premises, and that no stable, carriage; house, shed, or out-building shall be erected except on the rear of said premises.

In the case of corner lots any and all lines bordering upon a street,

avenue or parkway shall be considered a front line.

3. That no house shall be erected on said premises at a cost less than five thousand (5000) dollars, that no house in rows or semi-detached houses but only detached houses, shall be erected on said premises.

4. That any houses erected on said premises shall be designed for the occupancy of a single femily, and no part of any house or of any structure appurtenant there to shall be erected or maintained within five (5) feet of the side lines of premises hereby conveyed nor within (10) ten feet of the nearest adjacent house.

5. That a violation of any of the aforesaid covenants and agreements may be enjoined and the same enforced at the suit of The Chevy Chase Land Company of Montgomery County, Maryland its successors and assigns (assigns including any person deriving title mediately or immediately from said Company to any lot or square or part of a lot or square in the section of the subdivision of which the land hereby conveyed forms a part).

And the said party hereto of the first part hereby covenants to warrant specially the property hereby conveyed, and to execute such further assurances of said land as may be requisite.

In testimony whereof on the day and year first hereinbefore written, the said The Chevy Chase Land Company, of Montgomery County, Maryland, has caused these presents to be signed with its corporate name by Edward J. Stellwagen, its President attested by George & Fleming, its secretary and its corporate seal to be hereunto affixed and does hereby constitute and appoint George & Fleming its true and lawsul attorney in fact, for it and in its name place and stead to acknowledge these presents as its act and deed before any person or officer duly authorized to take such acknowledgment and to deliver the same as such.